

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 01375 102213Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 USSS-00 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-13 SSC-01 OMB-01 EB-11 RSR-01

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R 102115Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6844

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ECON, HA

SUBJ: INITIAL EVALUATION OF AUGUST 9 CABINET CHANGES IN HAITI

REF: P-AU-P 1365; P-AU-P 1215

1. SUMMARY: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, PRESSURE FOR REFORM AND CABINET CHANGES HAS BEEN MOUNTING RATHER SHARPLY IN HAITI FOR PAST FEW MONTHS, INSIDE GOH AND OUT. CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT WILL NOT BE THOROUGH-GOING ENOUGH TO SATISFY MOST CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT PERFORMANCE, BUT THEY SHOULD HELP DEFLATE SOME OF THE PRESSURE FOR CHANGE, FOR A TIME AT LEAST, AND HELP TO BUY TIME FOR THE GOH TO GET ITSELF ON THE RAILS. END SUMMARY.

2. OF THE MINISTERS REPLACED, FORMER INFORMATION SECRETARY CINEAS WAS COMPETENT BUT CORRUPT; FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY FRANCISQUE WAS HONEST, BUT A POOR ADMINISTRATOR AND ERRATIC AND HEAVY-HANDED IN TREATMENT OF PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT; AND FORMER PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY BONHOMME WAS A NULLITY. ONLY FORMER PUBLIC HEALTH SECRETARY THEARD WAS A SOLID ASSET TO THE REGIME. IN CONTRAST, ALL NEW MINISTERS APPEAR WELL-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PORT A 01375 102213Z

QUALIFIED FOR THEIR NEW POSITIONS. TWO (NEW INFORMATION

SECRETARY BLANCHET AND NEW PUBLIC HEALTH SECRETARY BEAULIEU) ARE ALSO PROMINENT AND RESPECTED "OLD GUARD" DUVALIERISTS, WHICH SHOULD HELP TO MOLLIFY SOME OF THAT FACTION'S DISCONTENT WITH THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING. NEW PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY PETIT AND NEW FINANCY SECRETARY BROS ARE WELL-QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS WHO SHOULD BE ABLE TO STEP IN AND MANAGE THEIR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES WITH A MINIMUM OF DISRUPTION. PETIT IS PARTICULARLY WELL-REGARDED IN PORT-AU-PRINCE FOR HIS HONESTY AND DEDICATION; IT IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS DROPPED FROM THE CABINET IN 1972 FOR REFUSING TO BOW TO PRESSURE FROM THEN-STRONGMAN LUCKNER CAMBRONNE FOR IRREGULARITIES IN EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT.

3. NEW UNDER SECSTATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ROBERT GERMAIN, A PHYSICIAN BY PROFESSION, HAD BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE APRIL 1971. NEW UNDER SECSTATE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HENRI BAYARD IS ALSO DEPUTY FOR GONAIVES, ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER IN FEBRUARY 1973.

4. OF THE NEW MINISTERS, ONLY BLANCHET IS A STRONG POLITICAL FIGURE. IN PRIVATE HE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN A SHARP CRITIC OF THE REGIME'S PERFORMANCE SINCE THE DEATH OF FRANCOIS DUVALIER, AND BLANCHET MAY WELL MAKE WAVES FROM HIS NEW POSITION. HE IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, TO DOMINATE THE NEW CABINET OR PRESIDENT DUVALIER AS LUCKNER CAMBRONNE DID IN HIS PRIME.

5. OUSTER OF FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY FRANCISQUE, AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY AN ABLE BUT POLITICALLY UNIMPORTANT TECHNICIAN CLEARS THE WAY FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SECRETARY SERGE FOURCAND AND PERHAPS NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT ANTONIO ANDRE AS WELL (BOTH ANTAGONISTS OF FRANCISQUE) TO EXERCISE LEADING ROLE IN GOH ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING. FOURCAND, WHO NOW APPEARS TO HAVE PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S COMPLETE CONFIDENCE, WAS CLEARLY A MAJOR GAINER OF THE CABINET CHANGE. (DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT CABINET CHANGES DID NOT TAKE PLACE PRECISELY AS OUTLINED BY FOURCAND JULY 19 (P-AU-P 1215) BUT THEY WERE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN TIME FRAME HE PREDICTED AND BRUNT TO ABOUT HALF OF THE CHANGES FOURCAND WAS OBVIOUSLY URGING ON THE PRESIDENT.)

6. AS INDICATED ABOVE, CABINET CHANGES WILL NOT FULLY SATIS-  
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PAGE 03 PORT A 01375 102213Z

FY "OLD GUARD" DUVALIERISTS WHO HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR OUSTER OF ALL OFFICIALS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH LUCKNER CAMBRONNE (NOTABLY FOREIGN MINISTER ADRIEN RAYMOND AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL CLAUDE RAYMOND, AS WELL AS THE NOW-DISMISSED CINEAS). IN HAITI, MANY WILL INTERPRET THE CHANGES AS A VICTORY FOR MARIE-DENISE, THE PRESIDENT'S SISTER, BUT THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT MARIE-DENISE, LIKE THE "OLD GUARD," WAS URGING PURGE OF THE RAYMONDS IN ADDITION TO CINEAS. IN

THIS SENSE, POLITICALLY SPEAKING THE CABINET CHANGE IS A REASONABLE COMPROMISE AMONG VARIOUS DUVALIERISTS. IT PROBABLY ALSO REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN PRESIDENT DUVALIER (WHO IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE FAVORED SWEEPING CABINET CHANGES) AND HIS MOTHER, MADAME SIMONE O. DUVALIER, WHO HAS BEEN INCLINED TO RESIST CHANGE. RESULT OF INTERNAL COMPROMISE IS WHAT ONE FORMER ASSOCIATE OF CAMBRONNE'S (CINEAS) AND THE CONTROVERSIAL FRANCISQUE HAVE BEEN SACRIFICED, WHILE TWO POPULAR "OLD GUARD" DUVALIERISTS AND TWO RESPECTED TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE CABINET.

7. ON THE WHOLE, EMBASSY'S INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT CHANGES ARE POSITIVE AND A PROMISING STEP TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. WE FORESEE NO SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES WORKING WITH THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ON BI-LATERAL ECONOMIC AND AID MATTERS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** P-AU-P 1365; P-AU-P 1215  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INITIAL EVALUATION OF AUGUST 9 CABINET CHANGES IN HAITI  
**TAGS:** PGOV, ECON, HA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005